



Carijoa riisei

Snowflake coral

Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
 - Fouling organism; competition for space with other invertebrates likely
 - In 2001, deep water surveys of the Maui Black Coral Bed discovered *C. riisei* overgrowing and killing over 60% of the black coral trees between 80 and 105 meters depth; it now threatens Hawaii's \$30 million precious coral industry
2. Invasive Potential
 - A fouling organism requiring assisted transport to expand alien range
 - When conditions are favorable it is capable of explosive growth, hence able to smother competitors and occupy any available space
 - Popular in aquarium trade - potential for releases into hospitable environments
 - *C. riisei* has been described as the most invasive of the 287 non-indigenous marine invertebrates in Hawai'i (Toonen, 2004)
3. Geographic Extent
 - Locally patchy
4. Management Difficulty
 - No known controls in marine environment
 - "A potential agent of *C. riisei* bio-control (introduced aeolid nudibranch soft coral predator) recently identified but must undergo further research before it can be considered as an actual management technique"



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Western Atlantic from Florida to Brazil
2. Introduced: Hawai'i
3. Habitats
 - Fouling communities, benthic, coral reefs
 - Never in direct sunlight
 - Found outside harbors on shipwrecks or in sheltered and shaded crevices or shallow caves on deeper reefs

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Pet, aquarium and water garden trade

Non-Native Locations

1. 152- Hawaiian Islands

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>